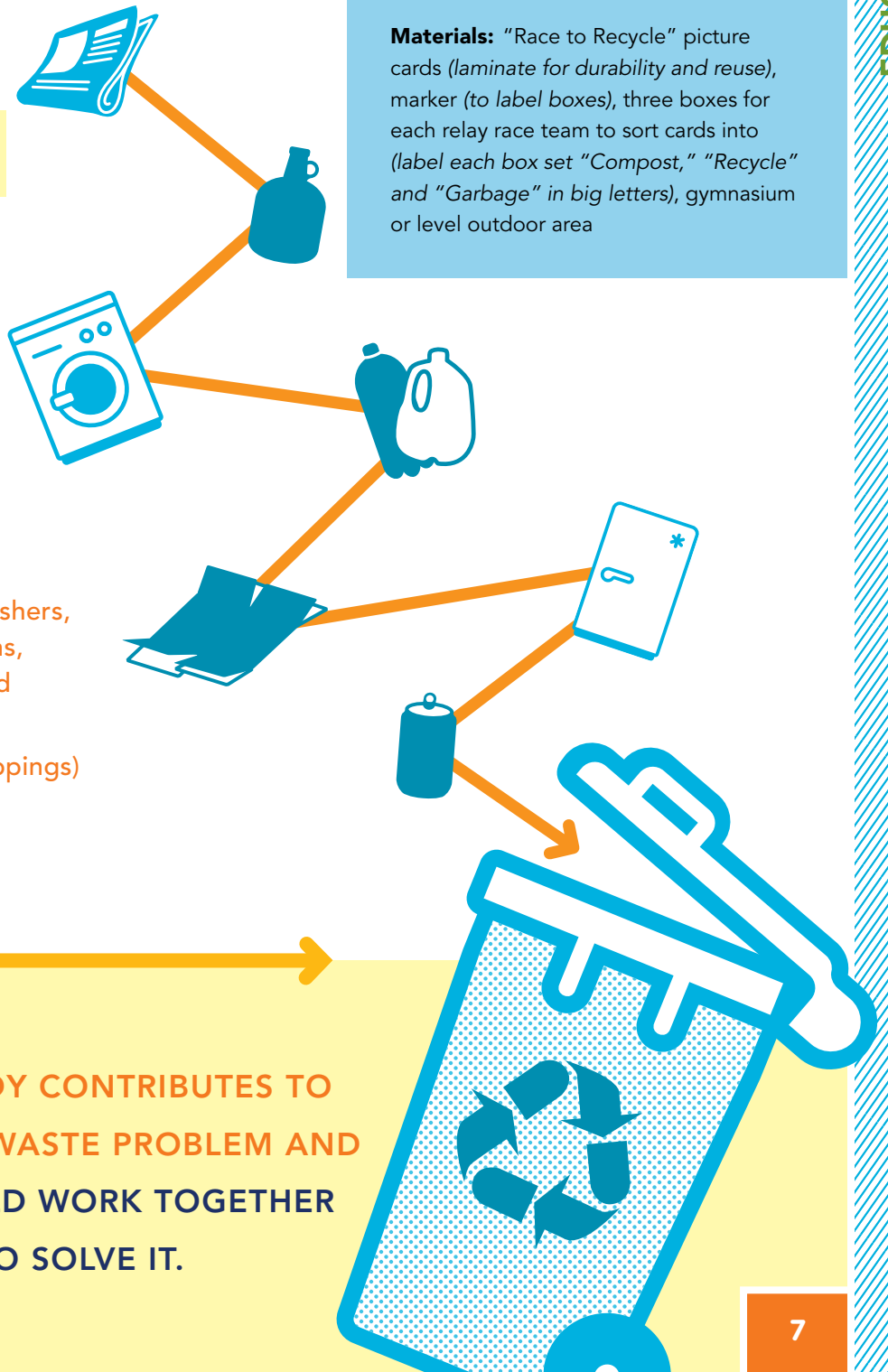


Race to Recycle

People in Wisconsin recycle a lot of stuff at home! Over 90 percent of people in our state practice recycling in their houses. Recycling is important because it saves natural resources and energy, and creates less environmental pollution. It's a good habit and it's the law. So, what things are required to be recycled?

HERE ARE THE MOST COMMON HOUSEHOLD RECYCLABLES:

- Aluminum cans
- Plastic containers marked with a #1 or a #2 (some communities accept #3-#7 plastics)
- Glass containers/bottles
- Newspapers and magazines
- Cardboard
- Steel containers
- Appliances, like air conditioners, clothes washers and dryers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, stoves, ovens, dehumidifiers, furnaces, boilers, and water heaters
- Yard waste (leaves, sticks, grass clippings)
- Tires



EVERYBODY CONTRIBUTES TO
THE SOLID WASTE PROBLEM AND
WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER
TO SOLVE IT.

Learning Objective: To help students learn what is recyclable and what is trash.

Subjects: Environmental Education

Wisconsin Model Academic Standards:
EE A.4.1, C.4.1, C.4.4, D.4.1, D.4.5

Grades: K-3

Materials: "Race to Recycle" picture cards (laminated for durability and reuse), marker (to label boxes), three boxes for each relay race team to sort cards into (label each box set "Compost," "Recycle" and "Garbage" in big letters), gymnasium or level outdoor area

WHAT'S RECYCLABLE AND WHAT'S TRASH?

Pre-Activity:

Introduce the concepts of recycling, composting and garbage with the students. Have the students talk about what they can recycle at home and how recycling can benefit both people and the environment (saves money, reduces the amount of raw natural resources that need to be harvested, helps reduce pollution, saves landfill space, etc.). Be sure that they are familiar with the information provided in the background section on the previous page. Or if you would like to test their knowledge of what is recyclable, have them complete the relay *before* talking about what is recyclable.

Procedure:

Separate the class into relay race teams of at least 4 students. Line the teams up along an imaginary starting line. Place identical piles of the "Race to Recycle" picture cards face down next to each team's front person. For each team, station the three, labeled, sorting boxes a good distance away from the starting line. Explain to the students that the team who correctly sorts the most picture cards quickest wins the relay race. On your command, have the first person in line pick up a card, turn it over and run to the box they believe it belongs in. Have the person run back to their team and tag the next person in line. Continue until all the teams cards are sorted. Keep track of who was done 1st, 2nd, 3rd and so on. The winning team will have the fastest time with the most cards in the correct bins.

Post-Activity:

After sorting through the picture cards in each of the three boxes, discuss with the students about what can be recycled or composted, and what is "trash." Could any of the items in the "trash" be reused? What does it mean to reuse something? What other items could you reuse, instead of recycling or throwing them away? Have the students identify decisions and actions that they can take to reduce, reuse and recycle in their own lives.

NOTE: When used in a business or institutional setting, computers are considered solid hazardous waste and are required to be recycled/disposed of properly. Contact your local DNR office for more information.

WHAT OTHER ITEMS
COULD YOU REUSE
INSTEAD OF RECYCLING
OR THROWING THEM AWAY?



